

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 17-24.

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy attached to read as follows:

25. (Amended) An agglutination immunoassay for assaying an antigen, comprising an antigen and either a polypeptide or an antibody ^{what does it bind} corresponding to said antigen, or both,

wherein said antigen is a nucleic acid-bound polypeptide which is produced by:

(A) binding a nucleic acid to a polypeptide;

(B) fixing said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide on the surface of a particle; and

wherein said immunoassay further comprises:

(i) contacting said antigen with said antibody; and

(ii) detecting the resultant antigen-antibody complex.

31. (Twice Amended) The agglutination immunoassay according to Claim 27, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

32. (Twice Amended) The agglutination immunoassay according to Claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Please add the following new claims:

33. (New) A method for increasing immunological reactivity of a polypeptide in an agglutination immunoassay, comprising binding a nucleic acid to said polypeptide.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to said polypeptide.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

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37. (New) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid-binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 36, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 17-24 have been cancelled.

New Claims 33-40 have been added.

The amendment of Claim 25 is supported by page 10, lines 2-24 of the specification as originally filed. Support for new Claims 33-40 can be found in Example 5 (page 27-29) of the original application.

No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments.